

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 6-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1, 6-10 are amended, and claims 11 and 12 are added. Claims 2-5 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration based on the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Objection to Form

The Office Action asserts that the specification lacks proper section headings such as Introduction, Summary of the Invention, Brief Description of Drawings, etc., as required by MPEP 608.01(a). Applicant respectfully submits that the specification as amended is in compliance with MPEP 608.01(a).

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication in the Office Action that claims 5 and 7 recite allowable subject matter.

III. The Claims Particularly Point Out and Distinctly Claim the Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that there is insufficient antecedent basis for "the damping sleeve" feature at line 2 of claim 8. The Office Action further asserts that "the axial bore" feature at line 3 of claim 9 lacks insufficient antecedent basis. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8 and 9 as amended provide sufficient antecedent basis for "the damping sleeve" and "the axial bore", respectively. The Office Action fails to specify grounds for rejecting claim 10.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

IV. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Rohacs (U.S. Patent No. 2,941,629). The Office Action rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rohacs. The Office Action further rejects claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rohacs as applied to claims 1-4, 6, 8 and 9 above, and further in view of Vismara (U.S. Patent No. 3,099,999). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to include the allowable features of claim 5. Further, independent claim 7 was indicated as allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 are obviated.

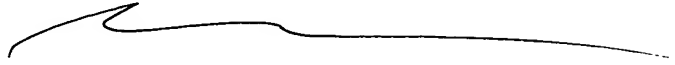
In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Eric D. Morehouse
Registration No. 38,565

JAO:EDM/sqb

Date: December 8, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION**

Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461